

March 14, 2003

Akin Welcomes House Armed Service Committee Chairman to St. Louis

St. Louis, MO- Congressman Todd Akin (R-MO) welcomes House Armed Service Committee Chairman, Duncan Hunter, (R-CA) to the St. Louis region. Congressman Akin, a member of the House Armed Service Committee and leading proponent of Boeing's F/A-18 Growler, will tour Boeing's main St. Louis campus with Chairman Hunter today.

"I am honored to have Chairman Duncan Hunter visit the St. Louis region," said Akin. "As a Vietnam veteran, champion of defense and Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Chairman Hunter fully understands the important role of the St. Louis region in our nation's defense and I am pleased he has made this visit a priority."

Congressman Akin has championed the F/A-18 Growler which would replace the Navy's aging fleet of radar jamming aircraft. The Growler is a Super Hornet platform that is equipped to provide radar jamming capability and to electronically counter attempts to attack U.S. aircraft during combat.

The President's proposed budget includes \$210 million in fiscal year 2004 for research, development and testing and \$359 million in fiscal year 2005 for research, development and testing, with procurement scheduled to begin in fiscal year 2006.